

PROGRAM From the People

STATION WGMS

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CONG. MILLER'S VIEWS ON SPACE RACE

GUEST: Representative George P. Miller (D.-Calif.), Chairman
of the House Science and Astronautics Committee

REPORTERS: Herb Brubaker, Radio Press International
Charles Betts, Science Service

QUESTION: "Getting back to the space race again, Congressman Miller, isn't it true, although as much as we may say there is no 'race,' doesn't each other's successes have some implication on the other's emphasis?"

CONGRESSMAN GEORGE P. MILLER: "Oh, there's no question of it in my mind. And if it wasn't for the fact that this competition has arisen, you maybe wouldn't have the public interest in it. And we all like prestige. We work internationally for prestige. We have international Olympic Games, and all of this. But I'm not afraid, and it did give it a great impetus; and has helped us out. But I do want to say that what we're doing is sound, scientific investigation, and not just for prestige."

QUESTION: "Do you feel that our government has any effective way to really evaluate Russian progress in this area?"

MILLER: "Well, I would cast some aspersions on the CIA if I said 'yes.' I think that they have a lot of information. And I think they have a lot of information in government. But you don't discuss the sources, or where it comes from -- as long as it's there and available when it's needed. You let it rest. I think that they know more, a great deal more, than they let you know, or let us know. I say 'us,' because I'm not cut in on any of it."

HERB BRUBAKER: "Along those lines, Congressman Miller, a number of reporters have complained that they haven't been given more information on the Soviet space effort. Then, would you agree that more should be made known to the public, and especially to the congressmen?"

MILLER: "Well, I would like to see more of this made known, particularly to congressmen. But on the other hand, I'm conscious of the fact that if we make too much of this known, maybe we lose our sources. And we in this country have been raised with a free press, and we like to think of this free press. The other fellow doesn't have a free press. He gets nothing. And if we insist on too much, maybe we're playing into his hands. So, it's a very delicate question. We want people to know this; but there are some things that even you and I have looked in our memories, and we're not anxious to disclose to the public."